

Hartman, Gary S

From: Richard McCollim [mccollim@emu.edu]  
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2001 7:16 PM  
To: Y12EIS  
Subject: Take the responsible course

Dear Department of Energy officials:

As a U.S. citizen and a human being on this small planet, I urge you to take the responsible course of action when it comes to the production of weapons - nuclear or any other type. Many leaders in government and in business, especially ones who have government weapons contracts or who receive large sums of money from weapons contractors, would have you believe that taking care of our nuclear arsenal would be the course of action to take to prevent and deter nuclear war. However, the fact of the matter is that nuclear weapons, whether they are from the U.S. or elsewhere, are a grave and irresponsible threat to our lives, our health, our sanity, and to all living things. All weapons should be dismantled.

As an organization, you may not already be ready to take such a courageous step. However, one day it will be inevitable. Weapons create mistrust and cause suffering and death. Please do not continue to be a dealer of death. The planned "National Security Complex" in Oak Ridge, Tennessee will not create any more peace and harmony in the world. It will continue to put us in the downward spiral towards war and bloodshed. I do realize that many in your position believe that, on the contrary, the U.S. weapons systems are meant to deter violence in the world. However, I have long studied politics, international relations, and conflict resolution, and have come to the unmistakable, unshakable, undeniable, un-propagandized conclusion that the U.S. weapons system is the greatest threat to peace in the world. How? you may ask:

1. Because of U.S. world military dominance, other countries live in fear and feel the need to boost their militaries (Russia, China, Korea, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Cuba, Afghanistan, etc.)
2. Because of U.S. political, economic, and military influence, countries feel pressured and compelled by the U.S. to increase their military might and arsenals (Egypt, Israel, Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, etc.)
3. Arms from the U.S. have been channeled into and used in civil wars around the world, causing millions of deaths (Great East Region of Africa, Central America, Middle East, Southeast Asia...)
4. The U.S. has been the world leader of the most bloodshed in history with the exception of the Holocaust and the Rwanda genocide. U.S. bombs caused the mass destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan resulting in the genocide of thousands of people. U.S. military power has killed innocent people in Kosovo and Serbia, in Sudan, in Iraq, in Panama, in Nicaragua, in Guatemala, in Vietnam, in Korea, and in many other places.
5. The U.S. continues to train thousands of militaries from Colombia to El Salvador in techniques of killing, torture, and military maneuvers in the School of the Americas (now with new name) in Columbus, Georgia, and elsewhere.
6. The U.S. profits so much in military weapons that it creates enormous economic instability, classism, and a lack of services for a country which is thought to be one of the richest in the world.
7. U.S. arrogance - such as in its dealings with Yugoslavia or with Iraq, despite what the media and government tries to make us think, is a great cause for frustration and discontent in the world (China, France, Spain, Russia, Mexico, etc.) I would venture to say that the United Kingdom is one of the few if only countries which does not have serious qualms with the U.S. We like to make ourselves look like world leaders who are responsible, protecting the world from harm, but this is not the way dozens of countries look at us. They look at us like an avalanche which has no bounds, like a greedy and arrogant hand reaching out, threatening them, and using its military might in doing so.

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Parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty agree not to directly or indirectly transfer nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over them to any recipient; and not to in any way assist, encourage, or induce nonnuclear weapon states to manufacture or alter use, or acquire nuclear weapons, or alter nuclear explosive devices or control over them. Continuation of the Y-12 mission, and construction and operation of a HEU Materials Facility or Special Materials Complex by the United States does not conflict with such an agreement. The proposed action, which includes continuing weapons dismantlement activities at Y-12, fully supports the goals of Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, in which signatory nations agree to work toward total disarmament. Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has significantly reduced the size of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and DOE has dismantled more than 15,000 nuclear weapons. At the present time, the United States is further downsizing the nuclear weapons stockpile consistent with the terms of START I and the recently ratified START II. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE continues its weapons dismantlement activities.

The United States is a declared weapons state, and the purpose of nonproliferation efforts is to keep non-weapons states from acquiring nuclear weapons while weapons states work towards the longer term goal of achieving total nuclear disarmament. Non-weapons states which have agreed not to manufacture nuclear weapons are not likely to be encouraged to do so as a result of the Y-12 National Security Complex continuing weapons support mission activities. As for rogue states bent on obtaining nuclear weapons at any cost, it is doubtful that the Y-12 mission activities will have any influence on their nuclear weapons endeavors.

While future arms control reductions may change requirements for maintaining the weapons stockpile, DOE is responsible for meeting the

McCollim, Richard  
Harrisonburg, VA  
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If you have the slightest, slightest, tiny tiniest doubt regarding the truth and accuracy of the above, please contact me. I will be happy to share with you dozens or possibly tens of thousands of sources which demonstrate the way U.S. military power, of which nuclear weapons is the pinnacle, has caused much grief and sourness in the world. So please do not initiate another bomb-building or bomb-rebuilding plant. I urge you to contact me to discuss this further. I will also be contacting U.S. representatives and senators.

Please feel comfortable to talk with me in person or by mail. I am not anti-U.S., but I am against our arrogance and military power. I am just a person with eyes and ears and a mouth who happens to realize what many in government refuse to see, and that is that our military might is the cause of instability in the world. As a Masters student of conflict analysis and transformation, I will be delighted to share with you ways that the Department of Energy can use its power for responsible, peaceful, beneficial endeavors. Let's talk about it.

Sincerely,  
Richard McCollim  
1041 G Shenandoah St.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
540-433-9946 / mcollir@emu.edu

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current requirements set forth by the President and Congress in the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Memorandum, which is updated annually. The proposed action is not expected to have any impacts upon the nuclear weapons endeavors of other nations; would not violate or impact any international treaties or agreements; would not have any impact on ongoing negotiations to further reduce nuclear weapons stockpiles; and would not promote nuclear proliferation. The need for nuclear weapons and the issue of how many nuclear weapons the United States maintains in its nuclear arsenal are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.